

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 79

2 **46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH TO ENGAGE THE  
12 CITIZENRY IN IDENTIFYING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO RESOLVE  
13 WILDLIFE DEPREDATION AND DAMAGE THAT CONSIDER LANDOWNER AND  
14 LEASEHOLDER NEEDS, MINIMIZE WASTE OF WILDLIFE AND INVOLVE  
15 JUDICIOUS DECISIONS BY THOSE KILLING WILDLIFE.

16  
17 WHEREAS, wildlife are a public trust resource,  
18 constituting hundreds of species distributed widely across the  
19 landscape of New Mexico and existing for broad appreciation and  
20 use by all citizens of the state; and

21 WHEREAS, the economy of New Mexico is substantially  
22 dependent on wildlife-associated recreation, which is  
23 estimated to bring in nearly one billion dollars  
24 (\$1,000,000,000) annually statewide and which contributes  
25 significantly to the public treasury; and

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1           WHEREAS, this economy depends upon the effective and  
2 ongoing acceptance of wildlife ranging across the landscape,  
3 without placing undue hardship on those who own and manage the  
4 lands used by wildlife; and

5           WHEREAS, these wildlife species occupy a landscape  
6 composed of a diverse mixture of public, private, state and  
7 tribal lands that form a complex matrix of habitats among land  
8 managers; and

9           WHEREAS, wildlife species wander freely across boundaries  
10 of property owners and derive food, water and shelter variably  
11 from those lands; and

12           WHEREAS, their movements and foraging habits sometimes  
13 conflict with property interests and the livelihoods of private  
14 property owners; and

15           WHEREAS, existing statutes and associated regulations are  
16 incomplete in resolving landowner complaints through the  
17 department of game and fish; and

18           WHEREAS, sometimes incomplete resolution has led to  
19 excessive dispute between private interests and the department  
20 of game and fish, occasionally resulting in wildlife being  
21 killed contrary to public sentiments; and

22           WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the state of New  
23 Mexico to conserve wildlife while ensuring that landowners  
24 statewide are able to effectively pursue their livelihoods  
25 without having to bear excessive costs in providing habitats

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1 where wildlife live and feed; and

2 WHEREAS, appropriate approaches to resolve wildlife  
3 conflicts will best arise from effective communication among  
4 public agency staff, affected landowners and other public  
5 stakeholders;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of game and fish be  
8 requested to communicate extensively and effectively with  
9 landowners and other citizenry to prepare revised statutory  
10 language and prospective associated regulations that will  
11 demonstrate broad citizen acceptance, share obligations and  
12 costs among all stakeholder groups, provide more effective  
13 resolution of wildlife damages, especially those arising from  
14 grazing wildlife and wildlife that prey on domestic livestock,  
15 and encourage thoughtful decisions by landowners facing  
16 wildlife conflicts, thereby minimizing waste from any wildlife  
17 killed; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of game and  
19 fish report its findings and recommendations to the appropriate  
20 interim legislative committee by December 1, 2004; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the department of game and fish and the office  
23 of the governor.